

REMARKS

It is submitted that the above amendment to claim 6 places all remaining claims 6-19 in condition for allowance and, therefore, should be entered.

Amended claim 6 has been further amended to better recite and provide better support for the features that (1) the first slit, which forms the apertures (the cut area) in the opening area of the composite sheet 1 in the easily peelable area, and (2) the surface sheet 1 is adhered to the composite sheet without the lubricant through an area which is smaller than the apertures (or cut area) formed in the composite sheet.

As seen in the drawings, (e.g., FIG. 3A) the composite sheet 1 is cut by first slit 7, e.g., cutting a circle of diameter R, to form apertures (cut area or apertures formed by slit 7). The surface sheet 11 is adhered to the composite sheet 1 without lubricant over a portion of the cut area or apertures formed by first slit 7 so that the apertures formed in the composite sheet 1 by first slit 7 stay with the surface sheet by virtue of this adhesion area (the portion of the apertures in the composite sheet that is adhered to the surface sheet that has no lubricant therebetween) when the easily peelable area A of the surface sheet is lifted from the lid, thereby accessing the container contents via the apertures formed with first slit 7 (the cut circles formed by first slit 7 in the composite sheet 1 remaining with the easily-peelable layer when it is lifted from the lid).

Claims 6-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. It is submitted that the amendment to claim 6, together with the detailed description as originally filed, overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, as explained below.

The term "without the lubricant through an area which is smaller than the apertures formed therein within the composite sheet with the first slit" finds clear support at pages 5 and 6 of the specification, as follows:

Page 12, lines 6-12:

"Further, the surface sheet 11 is adhered to the composite sheet 1 at the opening area C without the lubricant through an area (not shown in Fig. 1) which is smaller than the cut area which forms apertures in the composite sheet 1 with the first slit 7. As an adhesion area, any area which is smaller than the cut area by the first slit 7 is applicable, and it may include circular cut area of inner diameter r as shown in Fig. 3 (A), or area formed in the form of a pattern like a dot-pattern or, besides the combination of such area, crosswise form or the like."

See also page 6, lines 6-11 for the preferred difference between the cut area (apertures) in the surface sheet 11 formed with the first slit 7, e.g., having radius R versus the adhesion area in the composite sheet, e.g., having radius r, that has no lubricant (adhesive area).

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 6 based on the above-referred to language, which is clearly explained in the specification, should be withdrawn.

It is submitted that all claims are now of proper form and scope for allowance. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant encloses a request for a one-month extension of time. Please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 19036/37471 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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